THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 4. SATURDAY, APRIL 10TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—
Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, April 11th, 3 p.m.—Hyde Park—Mr. E. Duval. Chair: Mrs. Bouvier.
Monday, April 12th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, Cotton Street—Mrs. Bouvier.
8 p.m.—Powerscroft Rd.—Mr. Franklin.
8 p.m.—"Peacock"—Miss Feek. Chair: Miss Manicom.
Tuesday, April 13th, 2.30 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane, N.E.—Miss P. Lynch. Chair: Miss Manicom.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Mrs. Bouvier Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Salmon Lane—Mrs. Walker. Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m. — Poplar Women's Hall — Mrs. Drake and others.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Miss Barry.
Wednesday, April 14th, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mr. Franklin.
8 p.m.—Ford Road—Mrs. Walker.
Thursday, April 15th, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Road.—Chair: Mrs. Parsons.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mrs. Walker. Chair: Miss Manicom.
Friday, April 16th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Thompson. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd. Mrs. Mackinlay.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Drake.
7—10 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Club.
8 p.m.—Plaistow, "The Raglan"—Miss Holmes. Chair: Mr. J. C. Rowe.
Sunday, April 18th, at 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Sennett. Chair: Miss Beamish.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall—Mrs. Walker, Mr. E. Duval.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall — Miss Georgina Brackenbury and others. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
Monday, April 19th, at 8 p.m.—Canning Town—E.L.F.S. GENERAL MEETING. Members be sure to keep this date free.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays 7 to 10.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We urgently need subscriptions to help us to pay the heavy milk bill for our centres in Bow, Bromley, Poplar and Canning Town ; also gifts of :

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT, GLAXO AND VIROL.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Doctor's attendances and baby weighing 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Mondays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Thursdays 2.30 p.m.; 14 Butcher's Rd., Canning Town,

Mothers may have the leaflets on baby-feeding by applying at any of the centres.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
20 Railway Street, Poplar.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley.

Two-course meals 2d. (children 1d.) Soup 1d. a pint with a piece of bread.

Will you send us a gift of provisions to reduce our bills, which are growing rapidly with the rising prices ?

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

NO ANSWER YET FROM LLOYD GEORGE ABOUT EQUAL PAY FOR TIME RATES!

Women and boys and girls if you take a man's place, demand a man's wage!

Mr. Lloyd George has promised on the Government's behalf that you shall get it!

See to it that this promise is kept.

Write to the Secretary of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, if you have any complaints to make.

NO WOMAN ON COMMITTEE!

The Government has appointed an Advisory Committee to facilitate the carrying out of the arrangements adopted at the Treasury conference between the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the President of the Board of Trade and Trade Union representatives.

This Committee, appointed by the Government, is composed as follows:
Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON, M.P. (Chairman),
C. W. BOWERMAN, M.P.,
ALEXANDER WILKIE, M.P.,
FRANK SMITH, J.P.,
JOHN HILL, J.P.,
J. T. BROWNLIE,
W. MOSSES (Secretary) to the members of the Committee.

Women must offer emphatic protest against the failure to place even a single representative of working women upon the Committee.

The first meeting of the Committee was held yesterday at 5 Old Palace Yard, Westminster, and was opened by Sir George Askwith, Sir Francis Hopwood, and Sir George Gibb being also present.

13s. A WEEK FOR POSITION OF TRUST.

Last week a girl of 21 employed by a firm of manufacturing stationers, pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing the firms' stamps and passing them—to the amount of 10s. worth, every fortnight—to a baker licensed to sell postage stamps. She was paid 13s. a week wages, and had been with the firm for four years, keeping the postage book and presumably handling all the stamps used by the firm. Scandalously low as the wages are, it is an added scandal that a girl so paid should be put in a position of such temptation. What we need is a law under which the employer and not the girl might have been prosecuted.

THE "HERALD" LEAGUE.

A RE-UNION

Will be held in the **HOLBORN HALL, Grays Inn Rd., W.C.**

On Saturday, April 17th.

DANCING, SINGING & SPEAKING from 6.30 p.m. to Midnight. Doors open 5.30 p.m.

FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL. TICKETS 1- EACH.

The "COSMO" Quadrille Band of 14 Instrumentalists will be in attendance.

M.C.s.: F. C. Hagger and F. Furhmann.

Among the speakers will be G. LANSBURY, Mrs. DESPARD, SYLVIA PANKHURST, WILL DYSON (who will also sketch), J. SCURR and others.

Tickets may be had from—J. Burg, 13 Vernon Road, Bow, or League Secretary, 21 Tudor Street, E.C.

DREADNOUGHT Advertisements cost 5s. an inch; 1s. for 12 words, ½d. a word after.

GOVERNMENT INVITES WOMEN TO CONFER.

The following letter has been sent by the President of the Board of Trade to a number of Women's organisations, amongst them the East London Federation of the Suffragettes:—

Board of Trade,
Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

Dear Madam,—With reference to the Special Register of Women for War Service, which is being compiled by the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges, I am desired by Mr. Runciman to say that he proposes to confer with representatives of certain Women's Societies on this subject at the above address on Tuesday, April 13th, at 3.30 p.m.

I am desired, accordingly, by Mr. Runciman to state that he will be glad if your society will send not more than two representatives to attend this conference.

Yours faithfully,
E. R. EDDISON.

IMPORTANT.

A General Meeting of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes will be held at the Woman's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Monday, April 12th, at 8 p.m.

BUSINESS.

(1) Conference on War Service for Women, summoned by the Board of Trade.
(2) Conference on War Service for Women, summoned by Labour War Emergency Committee.
(3) Women's International Congress at the Hague.

Every Member should attend.

THE TIN-BOX TRADE.

The Trade Board, established under the Trade Boards' Act, 1909, to fix minimum rates of wages for the tin box and canister making trade, has resolved to propose a minimum time-rate of 14s. 1d. per week of 52 hours for female workers of 18 years of age and upwards. For younger workers the following rates are to be proposed: Under 15 years of age 6s. per week; 15 and under 16 years of age, 8s. per week; 16 and under 17 years of age, 10s. per per week; 17 and under 18 years of age 12s. per week. The lower rates for the younger workers are payable on condition that the workers are provided with reasonable facilities for learning some branch or process of the trade, and that they are not employed on power presses which, on account of their size, heaviness or other features, are unsuitable for them. If the conditions on which the rates are fixed for younger workers are not satisfactory, the minimum rate payable is to be 14s. 1d. per week. As regards workers over 18 years of age who have had no previous experience in the trade, it is proposed that the minimum rate for a period of 12 months shall be 12s. per week. Objections to the Board's proposals will be received from persons affected during three months from the 21st inst.

Fourteen and a penny a week for an adult worker! And with the cost of necessaries at War prices! And even this miserable rate is not to become operative for three months from the 21st of April. During the intervening period those who consider the munificent 14s. 1d. too high may lodge objections with a view to having the rate reduced.

Obviously the working woman needs a stronger representation on the Trades Boards, and a greater power over the Government nominees upon these Boards!

TWO MEETINGS.

League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives.

Wednesday, April 14th, 8 p.m.
ESSEX HALL,
Wakefield Street, East Ham.
Speakers: Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY, Mrs. WALKER, Mrs. HOLT, Mrs. THOMPSON and others.

Tuesday, April 20th, 8 p.m.
WOMEN'S HALL,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
Speakers: Mrs. DESPARD, Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST, Mr. G. LANSBURY, Mr. A. A. WATTS, Mrs. THOMPSON.

POPLAR MAYOR'S COMMITTEE.

On April 1st, the Poplar Mayor's Committee for the Administration of the Prince of Wales's Fund met, according to the rule passed at the previous meeting, that it must be called together monthly.

There was a very small attendance.

The Mayor stated that a circular letter had been received from the headquarters of the Fund stating that the relief might be increased up to 15 per cent.

The Mayor reported that the Ladies' Committee for the Queen's Workrooms had written to the Central Committee asking for permission to give the women tuition in garment making on power-driven sewing machines. A reply had been received stating that the L.C.C. was making arrangements to give such tuition, and that when the arrangements should be completed the Poplar Workroom Committee would be asked to send in the names of women from the workrooms whom they considered suitable to learn power machining. It was explained that the Poplar Committee would continue paying the wages of the women transferred from the Queen's Workrooms to the L.C.C. training centre.

It was stated that there were 58 women in the Workroom now. At one time there had been 117. The Mayor said that the cook was a "marvellous woman," for she had given the women and girls lunch and tea, and until that week the expenses had not reached 2½d. a day for both meals. The cook was paid 30s. a week; the forewoman was paid 30s.; and there were two assistants at £1.

The Mayor stated that a further 100 sacks of flour had been received from the overseas Dominions, and that this has been stored by Messrs. Spratts; also that 328 tins of salmon and 1194 one and a-half pound portions of beef remained from previous gifts. The Mayor said that the General Purposes Committee had suggested that the flour should be held over for further consideration at its next meeting. The Mayor said that Messrs. Spratts had very kindly offered to use this flour, and give the Committee other flour instead of it in the autumn, if the Committee would like. (If the price of flour should fall, as Mr. Asquith has said it will in June, this might be quite useful for Messrs. Spratts!)

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst asked whether Ward Secretaries and members of Ward Committees had been refused tickets for necessitous cases, although the supply of meat and salmon was not yet exhausted. The clerk, who was taking the minutes, said this was so, and the Mayor, who without asking his Committee, had given orders that the remainder of the supply should be hoarded, said that he thought it was "nicer" to wait until flour and potatoes could be given away with the meat.

(Continued on page 228, col. 2.

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

WOMEN! JOIN THE
East London Federation of the Suffragettes —
WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name.....

Address.....

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,
400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.
Telephone EAST 1787.

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as be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

Vol. II. No. 4.—Sat. April 10th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

WHAT IS PATRIOTISM?

WOMEN AND WAR SERVICE.

It is well that Mr. Runciman, the President of the Board of Trade, has invited the women's organisations to confer with him in regard to the Government's proposals for the Registration of Women for War Service. Thoughtful, patriotic women will have many searching questions to put to him, and many important conditions for safeguarding the welfare, both of the women and of the nation as a whole to lay down. For, indeed we should do our country a very great disservice if we were to rush hastily into this matter without securing the very stringent safeguards that are necessary.

It is useful, too, that the Workers' National War Emergency Committee, in which the various Women's Trades' and Labour Organisations are included side by side with those of the men, has also issued an invitation to Women's Political and Social Organisations to a Conference. The Workers' Committee has a detailed technical experience of the Labour situation, the consideration of which cannot fail to be of service to the Women's Organisations, and the Women's Organisations will also have valuable words to say to the Labour Organisations.

For the Conference called by the Workers' War Emergency Committee, a series of resolutions has been issued, which we print on page 227, and to which amendments may be submitted by any of the societies joining the Conference.

With the main trend of the resolutions, including, as they do, the principle of equal pay for equal work, without distinction of sex; careful safeguarding of the national standard of life and working conditions; and the representation of women as well as men, both on the Advisory Committees appointed by the Government in regard to trade matters, and also in the Councils of the Nation, by means of the Parliamentary Vote; all of us must be agreed; but in matters of detail wide divergence of views will no doubt appear, and some may consider that the resolutions are in some respects less definite than they should be.

In resolution (I.), paragraph (*c*), for instance, it is stated that a woman shall not be drafted from the War Register to employment "*at less than an adequate wage.*" Would it not be well to define what the minimum wage should be, or to say: "at less than the current rate paid to the man unskilled labourer if the woman be unskilled"?

Again in paragraph (*d*) it is stated that "adequate training *with maintenance* should be provided for suitable women." Here again should not the value of the maintenance be defined. Art and Science National Scholars get 25s. a week. Should we not demand for these other national scholars, who are quite unlikely to have any assistance from their families, maintenance to the value of £1?

Paragraph (*e*) in the first resolution calls up to us the troubles that will face us after the War. It says baldly: "That in any readjustment of staffs which may have to be effected after the War, priority of employment shall be given to workmen whose places have been filled by women." We are of opinion that all men who have left their work to go to the War should have their old employment back again when they return, if they are able to do it. If a choice has to be made in dismissing those who have stepped into the vacant places, for it might be that one man might return where two had left and that therefore only one substitute need go, we should prefer the worker without dependents, whether that worker be man or woman, should in each case make way for the worker supporting a family, and that the younger, and therefore more adaptable worker, should make way for the older.

But can we not add a special clause insisting that the Government responsibility shall not end until suitable and adequately paid work has been found for the workers who are displaced at the ending of the War?

We welcome Resolution II. which demands that the Advisory Committee of Workers appointed by the Government shall include representatives of women workers, but we desire to see women workers represented also at the Court of Arbitration on which according to the Treasury agreement "labour is to be represented equally with the employers" and which is to deal with trades disputes during the War, and we demand also that where the dispute is one which primarily concerns women workers, the arbiter shall be a woman.

We welcome also the third resolution, though some will probably wish to make its wording more explicit, because we see in it an important recognition of the fact that, for their protection, and their dignity, and in order that they may the better serve their country, women must have the vote—and that the vote is *every woman's* due.

Gambling in the People's Coal and Food.

The report of the Government Committee on coal shows plainly that the most heartless and dishonest manipulation of coal prices has been allowed to continue right on through the bitter cold of winter. Now that the warmer weather is about to alleviate, in this direction, the unnecessary misery that poor people and especially fragile little children have suffered, the facts are allowed to become known. But how shall we forgive the carelessness of the Government that has allowed the grasping traders to exploit the people until the winter has passed? Surely the first duty of the Government, and indeed the essential reason of its existence, is that it shall protect the weaker from the stronger! And yet how perpetually it ignores its task! What sort of Patriotism has it shown?

The committee says: "if prices do not shortly return to a reasonable level, the Government should consider a scheme for assuming control of the output of the collieries during the continuance of the War."

Surely the case for taking this step at once has been more than proved!

But coal is not the only necessary of daily life of which the price has risen unwarrantably. The prices of bread, sugar, meat, milk, and other commodities need the same careful scrutiny that has been applied to coal, and when an impartial scrutiny is made similar dishonest exploitation will be revealed.

It is urgently necessary that the control of the nation's food supply shall be assumed by the Government, under the guidance of a committee composed in equal proportions of working women housekeepers, trade union representatives of workers in the trades concerned, and (though these in many instances have forfeited all right to be consulted) representatives of the traders.

Drunkenness or Overwork?

An outcry has been raised against the workpeople in the armament factories and the docks, because they have accepted the Government's suggestion that wages should be raised to meet the cost of living, which has been forced up by extortionate traders, on whom the Government will place no stay; because, also, the workers refuse to work overtime every night and on Saturday and Sunday beside.

When men who, during urgent pressure of necessary work, fall sleeping on the docks, though the situation genuinely demands that they should work for thirty-six hours without a break, it is troublesome. But, need we send a message to their brothers in the trenches (to say nothing of the Kaiser) that they are shirkers and drunkards?

Russia is said to have increased her productive power enormously in all directions since vodka was prohibited, and as we are told that drunkenness is hindering our output of War munitions, the King has set the example of commanding that no wines, spirits, or beer shall be consumed in any of his houses.

If prohibition is introduced, it should apply to men and women of all classes equally. In that case it will probably do some good to some people. We admit this with regret that poor human nature should so often misuse the things that were intended for its benefit. But if the drink traffic, as at present carried on, be such an evil in War time that it must be altogether suppressed, let us ask ourselves, is it wise to let it go on, as it is, in time of peace? Is it a good thing to allow people to sell adulterated drinks that create thirst? Cannot Great Britain take the drink problem in hand as Norway and some of the American States have done, and at least see to it that the people who manage public houses shall have no interest in selling as much drink as possible to every customer?

But great as the drink evil may be, let us not run away with the idea that it is any more than a very slight contributing cause of the trouble in regard to the output of munitions of war. Even human beings who are teetotallers cannot continue at hard and exacting physical labour without a reasonable period of rest. Moreover human beings born of undernourished overworked mothers, reared on scanty fare in overcrowded homes, sent to work whilst yet they were growing children and kept at ill-paid casual toil all their lives, have not the great reserve powers that we should wish them.

No, the workers are not all atheletes! Alas how could they be? We believe that the best and surest policy to get good results from them is to husband their strength and to arrange for three regular shifts of men to work eight hours each. We predict that this method will eventually be adopted. Let us hope it may be soon!

But quite apart from all questions of the health and character of the workers, is there not some other reason which is principally responsible for the smallness of our output?

Why did we hear nothing of the abnormal haste for munitions that now overwhelms us during past months? Why has the Government waited so long to take over the armament factories and co-ordinate the work?

The *Woolwich Pioneer* states that contractors who were subsidised by the Government, in order that they might be supplied with all that was necessary when war time came, have not fulfilled their contracts in this matter. The same paper also states that the Government's own factories have gone short of work in order that contractors might have the more to do. Are these and other such statements true? Is it because the Government and its contractors have been wanting that they cry out upon the workers now?

The gun factory in the Old Ford Road, opposite to our Women's Hall, has grown during the last few weeks to four times its old size. It is said that women and girls and boys are being taken into the factory to do the work of men. Will they get the wage that has been paid to men?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

EVIDENCE FOR ASQUITH.

At an inquest on the body of an old woman of 80, it was stated that "She had for years existed solely on the old age pension of 5s. a week. Out of this she paid 2s. 3d. rent, leaving her 2s. 9d. to live upon. The increased cost of food owing to the War had made matters worse." The doctor said that death was immediately due to apoplexy, and when asked by the coroner "was it starvation" answered "Well, I don't think she had enough food, but I can't say it was sheer starvation." A verdict was therefore returned "in agreement with the medical evidence," but in such cases—for this is not the first—the jury might with justice bring in a verdict of murder against the Government. It is not through inadvertance that these old people have been left virtually to starve. The Government has been asked, from a number of sources, to increase the Old Age Pension, or to make a definite grant from the National Relief Fund towards their maintenance, and it has definitely refused to do so. The deaths of these old people undoubtedly lie at its door. Mr. Asquith said that he had no evidence that old age pensioners were suffering from the increased cost of living, when he refused them an additional shilling a week.

The *Nation* says: "It is all to the good that the importance of women's work and women's capacity should be thus publicly and formally recognised. But it is not less clear that the manner in which this policy is put into practice is of the utmost importance. If it were to degenerate into the supplying or cheap labour, it would bring a great train of misery and degradation to men and women. If it is to succeed, it must be a deliberate, careful scheme, safeguarded against sweating, with the fullest provision both for the present and for the future; a plan not less complete than the plans for mobilising an army. How is such a plan to be prepared?

"It is, on the face of it, absurd enough that the society which is calling on women in this way allows them no vote; that absurdity clearly cannot survive this final and crushing exposure of its injustice. Nobody can pretend that the conditions on which women take employment at the urgent call of the State are important only to men, or that men alone are entitled to any voice in determining those conditions."

James Galt, writing in the *Scotsman*, points out that the work of an agricultural labourer approximates to that of a navvy, and that at Rosyth, which gives a lead to Scotland, navvies wages are 7½d. an hour. Are the farmers prepared to pay 7½d. an hour for women field workers?

Women's Exhibition **CAXTON HALL,**
MAY 10, 11 & 12. 3 to 10 p.m.

TOY MAKING EXHIBIT
Arranged by the E.L.F.S.
SWEATED INDUSTRIES
Arranged by Dr. Tchaykovsky.
INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT
Arranged by International Suffrage Shop.
FOOD PRICES EXHIBIT
Arranged by Miss Margaretta Hicks.

SPEAKERS from all the SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES

Admission 1s., after 7 p.m. 6d.
SEASON TICKETS, 2s. 6d.

DEMAND OF THE WOMEN TEACHERS' FEDERATION.

In her introductory remarks at the National Federation of Women Teachers at Caxton Hall on Saturday, Miss Dix, the ex-president, referred to the protest made by the federation against the putting of soldiers' wives under the surveillance of the police. Public opinion, she said, was coming very much more to the points of view they had long ago emphasized, and were going on to emphasize. They might have read what a certain great man said that week about equal pay for the two sexes. She came from a city where women worked by the side of men preparing munitions of war. If the women did not prepare them well enough, they would not have them there. But they did not pay those women the same as they paid the men, notwithstanding the remarks of the statesman whom she had mentioned.

Miss Phipps, in her presidential address, said that they had need to watch the interests of women workers in recent legislation. The legislation closing public houses to women until 11.30 a.m. and not to men was based on the lie that soldiers' wives were responsible for most of the excessive drinking. Another matter was the putting of soldiers' wives under police supervision. That was a deadly insult to the wives and husbands as well.

Referring to the employment of children from school to work in the fields, Miss Phipps said she agreed that we must have the harvest got in, but she suggested that some of the boys from Eton and Harrow should be employed in the fields. They were very much stronger and better fed than the little children who were the sons and daughters of agricultural labourers.

Alluding to the employment of women as drivers of public vehicles, the speaker said some ladies had passed the necessary examination for drivers of motor vehicles, but when they applied for a license to drive public vehicles the Home Secretary informed them that he could not issue them because the public would not have sufficient confidence in women drivers. "Could he not leave the public to decide that?" Miss Phipps asked.

A resolution was passed urging the Government, in view of its appeal to women to undertake the labour of men, to insist that women who did so should be paid the same wages as men whose places they filled. The resolution also protested against the shortening of the period of education for children and emphasized the need for longer and better training "in order to prepare children for the heavy responsibility they will encounter in later life."

CONFERENCE on WAR SERVICE.

On Monday, March 22nd, a Preliminary Conference of Women's Political and Social Organisations and Trade Unions was held at General Buildings, Aldwych, in order to consider the calling of a National Conference to consider the Board of Trade Proposals for War Service for Women.

It was agreed to ask the Workers' National War Emergency Committee to call the Conference, and to send out an agenda, to which other societies might present amendments.

The Workers' Committee agreed to do this, and the following resolutions have been issued as a basis for the discussion:—

I.—To be moved by Miss Mary Macarthur.

That this Conference, representing the Women's Trade Union, Labour, Socialist, Co-operative, Suffrage and kindred organisations, declares that it is imperative, in the interests of the highest patriotism, no emergency action shall be allowed unnecessarily to depress the standard of living of the workers or the standard of working conditions, adequate safeguards must be laid down for any necessary transference or substitution of labour, and it therefore urges:—

(*a*) That a woman who registers for War Service should immediately join the appropriate Trade Union in the trade for which she is volunteering for War Service;

(*b*) That where a woman is doing the same work as a man she should receive the same rate of pay, and that the principle of equal pay for equal work should be rigidly maintained;

(*c*) That in no case should any woman be drafted from the War Register to employment at less than a living wage, and that the stereotyping of sweated conditions must at all costs be avoided;

(*d*) That adequate training with maintenance should be provided for suitable women, whom it is proposed to place in employment under the foregoing conditions, and that in choosing candidates for such training, preference should be given, where suitability is equal, to the normal woman wage-earner now employed;

(*e*) That in any re-adjustment of staffs which may have to be effected after the War, priority of employment shall be given to workmen whose places have been filled by women.

II.—To be moved by Miss Margaret Bondfield.

That this Conference demands that the Advisory Committee of Workers appointed by the Government for facilitating the carrying out of the proposals for the acceleration of output on Government work should include representatives of organised women workers; this Committee should advise the Board of Trade as to detailed terms and conditions upon which arrangements can be made for the transference of women from one trade or district to another for work formerly done by men, and that before giving such advice the Advisory Committee shall consult the organised representatives of the trade or section of trade concerned, so that any action may be taken in the closest co-operation with the trade union interested.

III.—To be moved by Dr. Marion Phillips.

That this Conference, representative of the Women's Trade Union, Labour, Socialist, Co-operative, Suffrage and kindred organisations, whilst desiring to co-operate with the Government to the fullest possible extent in taking what steps may be necessary for the protection and defence of the country, and whilst welcoming the frankness with which the Government has publicly announced the co-operation of women to be essential, expresses conviction that it would be illogical, inconsistent, and most unjust to delay unnecessarily the full rights of citizenship to women, upon whom it has now been demonstrated beyond doubt, duties so heavy and responsible must fall in times of war, and calls upon the Government for a definite assurance that at the earliest possible moment the long overdue reform of universal Suffrage shall be dealt with.

THE PRICE OF COAL.

The committee appointed by the Board of Trade to enquire into the retail prices of coal has published its report. It appears that the colliery owner gets half the increase when the price rises for the consumer.

"The colliery owner has during the past winter automatically received 4s. 6d. per ton out of the rise of 9s. from the summer price of coal sold under this kind of contract. It is obvious that this arrangement gives coal-owners and merchants a common interest in high prices, while there is no sharing of the loss if prices are low."

This the committee describes as an "indefensible system."

A further effect of the arrangement whereby the colliery owner is entitled to increase his price by half the increase charged to the consumer is that, when a few leading firms raise the retail price 1s. *all* coal merchants are charged an extra 6d. by the coal owner, and are forced either to raise their prices or lose part of their profits. Thus without a technical "ring" the coal merchants are brought into line and the public pays the price. The committee recommends amongst other things that—

"If prices do not shortly return to a reasonable level the Government should consider a scheme for assuming control of the output of collieries during the continuance of the war.

Unless it be that the Government appoints committees, not with a view to acting on their recommendations, but merely to check public outcry until the interest in any scandal such as this has diminished, arrangements for national control of the coal supply should begin at once!

The National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants at its annual general meeting, carried a resolution in favour of the appointment of a national woman organiser, but rejected that advocating that women shop assistants should demand equal pay with men. Considering that women are now being trained to replace the men of military age, it is very shortsighted of the N.A.U.S.A. not to back the women up in this demand. We hope that in spite of the attitude of the Union the women will stand firm. Now, if ever, is their chance.

The *Kentish Independent* says:—"It was on March 28th, 1872, that the Girls' Factory in the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich was closed and the work of filling small-arm cartridges handed over to lads."

TRANSLATED FROM A GERMAN WOMAN'S PAPER.

On December 3rd, the Bundesrat issued an order establishing substantial extensions and increases in the sick fund for lying-in women and gives State assistance to the amount of about two million marks a month (£100,000). The War has suddenly brought about what many years of united and strenuous efforts by the woman's movement has sought in vain, and no better proof is needed of the inherent justice of the women's demand for State care of mother and child than the fact that its consideration presents itself as absolutely indispensable in this time of National trouble. We say consideration and not fulfilment, as we should like, for much is still needed towards the full granting of the demand. The reasons given by the Government are enough to make this apparent. As the husbands who are called to the colours, to perform the highest duty to the Fatherland, are unable themselves to give the necessary assistance to their families, it is only just that their anxiety should be lightened through the certainty that the wives, in their hour of trouble, will be sheltered from extreme need and relieved of care for the life of the new-born infant . . . . the terrible sacrifice of human life which the War demands, makes it an imperative duty of the Fatherland to care for the preservation and the strengthening of the coming generation from birth onwards.

But the ordinance does not fully attain its desired end. It does not give every soldier the assurance that his wife is being looked after in child-birth, for assistance is given only on condition of insurance contributions having been paid for 26 weeks during the preceeding twelve months, or at least six weeks contributions immediately before. The number who are insured is large, but is far from embracing all, for certain classes are only bound to insure if their regular pay does not exceed 2,500 marks. If such men are called to the colours their income often ceases altogether and their wives, accustomed to a higher standard of living, will find the absence of all provision for their lying-in doubly hard.

But not only these categories are concerned. There are many whose occupations are compulsorily insured, but whose payments have lapsed owing to their being out of work, or who have temporarily taken on a work which does not come under the compulsory insurance and have neglected to take advantage of the right of continued insurance; and if only one week's insurance is missing they have no claim to State assistance. We must also remember those who were doing their military service when the War broke out and therefore were not insured; though most of these are not yet married, there are many exceptions.

Also women whose children are born prematurely, *i.e.*, before capable of life, are excluded. In such cases too the self-insured woman is not eligible for the insurance money; but the illness which causes the miscarriage entitles her to sick insurance. And a man's anxiety for his wife will not be less in such cases, nor her needs less, than in the others. An illogical restriction excludes women whose children were born before December 3rd.

Insurance benefit to those who are eligible is as follows:

A single payment towards the expenses of the confinement of 25 marks.

A payment of 1 mark (1s.) daily, including Sundays and feast-days for eight weeks, a contribution up to 10 marks (10s.) towards midwife's and doctor's expenses if necessary. Further—a decision to be welcomed as an inducement to nurse the child—half a mark (6d.) daily for 12 weeks if the mother nurses her child.

It is unsatisfactory that the order only helps those who were confined after December 3rd, even from the point of view of allaying the husband's anxiety!

Nor does the order meet the second object satisfactorily, i.e. the care and strengthening of the new generation, which is just as valuable to the State if it is not the offspring of the soldiers!

The order takes no account of unmarried mothers, though both conditions—the anxiety of the father and the needs of the child—are often present here. Many a man at the front will be full of anxiety on the score of the girl, worse off than the married woman, who with her child will receive no help.

One might reply that if a war wedding took place it would entitle the woman to the benefits of the man's insurance; but there should be no "if" in the matter, there may be weighty reasons against such a wedding, or the man may not be prepared for it.

One might go further and say that most unmarried mothers belong to the class that is insured and is entitled to maternity benefit; but they would have to have kept up payments uninterruptedly during the previous half-year. Unfortunately payments are often omitted through carelessness and in the second place many domestic servants, owing to the fact that the employer often pays the insurance himself, hardly realise its existence and do not remember it when they leave service.

But to those who are eligible for them the new grants are very helpful, especially to the non-insured wife of the insured soldier, who would be much less well-off in peace time.

The insured wife of the insured soldier also gets an increase in benefits, formerly the grants for midwife and doctor and nurse money only given in certain cases.

Insured wives whose husbands are not at the War have the same claims as the insured wives of insured soldiers, but the funds of the insurance societies have to be responsible for the increased benefits where the former are concerned, while these funds are supplemented by the State in the case of the latter.

Although the order falls short of what women would wish, it is still a matter for congratulation—each child and mother cared for is a gain.

German Socialist women have petitioned against the growing price of foodstuffs. Like English working women, the German women suspect that "interested persons are forcing up prices immoderately." This is another illustration of how, although the militarists of all nations may be at war, the interests of all women, whose work is to protect and not to destroy life, are often at one in spite of differences of nationality. We hope the German women will bring those "interested persons" to book.

In a recent action for libel, Mr. H. W. Lake, haberdasher, *v. John Bull*, one of the witnesses, Louisa Mary Beswick, stated that she was engaged by the plaintiff to recard studs at 2d. per gross. Later she was told that the plaintiff "wished to be just, but could not afford to be too generous," and she was now doing the work at 1d. per gross of studs.

Mr. Lake won his case against *John Bull*, in which he was called "an imposter and sweater"; but, of course, as we are often told, "the greater the truth the greater the libel."

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND. Miss C. M. Holmes 10.0

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.

Anon (4 weeks) 12.0.0, Miss A. M. Buchan 10.0.6, Misses Gliksten 9.0.0, T. S. Burch, Esq. 5.0.0, Miss E. V. Newnham 2.0.0, Mrs. A. Singer 1.19.2, Sympathisers in Japan, per Miss E. Hall 1.4.0, Miss D. A. Courtney 1.0.0, Mrs. Mackenzie Kennedy 1.0.0, Miss Eardley 1.0.0, Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett (monthly) 1.0.0, Mrs. G. M. Hunter 1.0.0, Miss Yeoman (2 weeks) 1.0.0, G. F. Weller, Esq. 10.0, P. E. Harbott, Esq. 10.0, Dr. Harriet Chick 10.0, Mrs. Parhyn 10.0, T. Stenhouse, Esq. 10.0, Mrs. Durrant (monthly) 10.0, Mrs. M. A. Davies (monthly) 10.0, In memory of Miss Florence Canning 9.0, Miss M. Sennett 9.0, H. W. Dickinson, Esq. 8.0, Charles S. Green, Esq. 7.0, Mrs. Morant 5.0, Misses H. and M. Black 5.0, T. T. Munden, Esq. 5.0, Percy T. Harding, Esq. 5.0, Miss B. Vine 5.0, Misses Bellamy and Sanderson 5.6, Miss Olive Barlow 5.0, H. Groves, Esq. 5.0, Miss Maud de la Haye 5.0, Miss E. Lowy (monthly) 5.0, Miss A. L. Eyres 5.0, Mrs. and Miss Ashby 4.0, Miss Marie Renthe (2 weeks) 4.0, Miss Crabb 3.6, Mrs. E. Wilson 2.6, Miss M. Burgess 2.6, R. W. Pyne, Esq. 2.6, Cuckoo (weekly) 2.0, Mrs. Dickinson 2.0, A working woman (2 weeks) 1.0, Mrs. D. V. Edgell 1.0, Mrs. Powles (weekly) 1.0.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser : MRS. DRAKE.

We have had a rest which was very necessary and now must work harder than ever for our cause. Everyone can do a little to help. In the workshop or factory, among neighbours and friends, we must speak about it. Get people to come to the meetings—indoor and outdoor. Then the paper, you may have back numbers to *give* your friends, but *please do sell* more *new* ones. A little perseverance is all that is needed.

Our first outdoor meeting here in Poplar, will be at Vesey Street, April 12; speaker—Miss Feek. The first indoor meeting at the Poplar Women's Hall, April 13; speaker—Mr. Carlton Smith. So please tell your friends about these and others you see on the front page and so help us to have good attendances. Mrs. Bouvier was the speaker last Tuesday at a good meeting. No meeting on Friday as it was a holiday. Our milk was served all through the holidays as usual by Mrs. Schlette. Our thanks to her!

Doctor will attend on Tuesdays at 3.30 p.m. Sale, Monday evening at 6.30. Club open Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.

HACKNEY.

Offices : 175 DALSTON LANE
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).

Will members please keep April 24 open. Look out for special announcement next week! Mrs. Page has done good work collecting for our babies, so will someone else volunteer to take a turn? Much work has been done during the last few weeks in free paper distribution, but much more could be accomplished with more help.

Some members have not yet paid their monthly contributions. These pennies do good work in building up a strong union for women. Help in every way that you can. Open-air meeting at Powerscroft Road was unavoidably postponed last week, but let us have a strong rally this week.

Dreadnoughts sold 9; distributed 50.

SELF DENIAL WEEK.

The E.L.F.S. urgently appeals to all members and friends to co-operate in our Self Denial week, which we are arranging to hold from Friday, April 23rd, to Friday, April 30th. We urgently need funds for our mother and baby clinics, our nursery, our "cost price" restaurants, and for our political and educational work which is so vitally essential to safeguard the interests of the nation's homes in this time of crisis.

Friends who will take collecting sheets or boxes in Self Denial week, who will help to raise funds in any way should apply to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst as soon as possible.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Collect in the streets.
Collect from your friends.
Sell flowers in the streets.
Make cake, jam or other things to sell.
Take a stall in the market and sell papers, flowers or other things there for the funds.
Sell our toys.
Sell the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.
Organise an at home, dance, concert, or meeting in aid of the funds.
Go without something in order to save money for the cause, and persuade others to do the same.
Give what you can.

OUR AT HOME.

On Friday, April 23rd, at the beginning of Self Denial week, the E. L. F. S. will give an At Home at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., there will be speeches and music, and dancing after 9.30 p.m. Friends who wish to attend our At Home should write to us for tickets. Members do not need tickets as they will be the hostesses.

WOMEN'S MAY DAY IN EAST LONDON.

Members and friends must begin at once to make preparations for the Third Anniversary of Women's May Day in East London, Sunday, May 23rd, when we shall march, as before, from East India Dock Gates to Victoria Park. Resolutions calling for Votes for Women and Universal Peace, and sending greetings to comrades overseas, will be adopted at the meeting.

The Women's Industrial Council urges that able-bodied adults engaged on Government contracts shall be paid 4d. an hour. Why should the minimum rate be lower than the minimum rate for the man unskilled labourer—5d. an hour?

(Continued from front page.)

Miss Pankhurst said that flour and potatoes were cheaper than meat, and that old age pensioners and others might be able to buy a little flour and potatoes to add to the meat if it were given to them. If they were too poor to buy anything to put with the meat they must be starving without it!

Councillor LeManquais said that he thought the food in hand should be distributed. Mrs. Atlee suggested that Poplar might ask for some more. A member of the committee said that it would be invidious to ask for more until the food in hand was disposed of.

The Mayor said that worse times were before us. He knew by his efforts to collect funds for the Prince of Wales's fund that the purse strings were growing tighter. Miss Pankhurst said that the purse strings would certainly tighten if the Poplar Committee made it known that it would not distribute to the poor the food that was in hand.

The Rev. H. Hunt said that there was less unemployment and therefore less distress than there had been.

Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Scurr said that owing to the rise of food and fuel prices people with small incomes were suffering more than at the commencement of the War. Mrs. Scurr said that the Old Age Pensioners could not live on their allowances and that the Guardians had had to give them food in the form of medical relief and also to take them off the Old Age Pension and give them poor relief. The Mayor said that the General Purposes Committee had wished the question deferred to their next meeting and Councillor LeManquais suggested that the question should be referred to the General Purposes Committee with a recommendation to distribute the food.

Miss Pankhurst pointed out that the General Purposes Committee was only a sub-committee of the main body, and urged that the Committee make up its mind to have the food distributed on the application of the Ward Committees as before. The Mayor said: "I am sure the General Purposes Committee will agree to the recommendation" and the matter was allowed to rest.

Mr. Baker, a representative of the railway workers, stated that large quantities of the potatoes sent for the poor from British Dominions overseas, had been allowed to rot because the Mayor's Committees had not applied for them. He said: "It's very hard for us chaps to see them lying by." The Mayor agreed to make application for more potatoes.

The Mayor then said that when War first broke out four registration clerks had been appointed to register the names of applicants for relief at four centres. The centres had been reduced to two and he urged that one centre only was now required.

Mr. Cruse asked why, if there were so few applicants now that the clerks had too little to do, the work should be so badly done. He mentioned the case of a woman who had been employed as a temporary hand in a hospital. Since the War the hospital had discharged the temporary hands and this woman with them. She had registered a month ago, but her name had not been sent through to the Ward Committee. The woman had five children at Shenfield Poor Law Schools and had been supporting herself and one child.

The Mayor said that this had perhaps been regarded by the Borough officials as a Poor Law case. Mr. Cruse said that the woman had been supporting herself and the child without aid from the Guardians and the Prince of Wales's fund should help her as it was through the War that she had lost her work. The Mayor assented.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst said this proved the contention that she had been making ever since the formation of the Committee—that it ought not to be left to the clerks to decide which cases should be relieved, all cases should be sent through to the Ward Committees in order that they might be thoroughly investigated by them.

The Mayor said that the registration clerk had not refused this case.

Miss Pankhurst said then no official *here* ought to have the power to suppress it. There were numbers of other such cases but not all of them chanced to come to the hearing of members of Ward Committees.

The Mayor then said that 5,370 cases had been relieved since war broke out, the number relieved last week was only 33. The week ending March 13th, the Ward Committees struck four persons off the list, four were struck off through non-appearance and seven were struck off by the officials. The week ending March 20th, the Ward Committees struck off six, one was struck off through non-appearance and eight were struck off by the officials. The week ending March 27th, seven were struck off by the Ward Committees, six by the officials, making a total of 21 cases struck off the relief list by the officials during the last three weeks.

Mr. Cruse said he objected very strongly to the treatment of cases under his care. In one of these a man had lost his employment at which he earned 20s. to 25s., because his employer had enlisted. This man had a wife and three grown up daughters, and a boy. The daughters earned between them 28s. 6d., 16s. 6d. of that money they were obliged to spend on food and fares outside the home. Only 12s. came into the home to keep four women, a man and a boy, yet the man who had lost his work was refused relief. After some conversation, the Mayor ruled that the daughters must be considered as separate entities not earning more than enough to keep themselves, and that the man, his wife, and the boy, were entitled to relief from the Fund.

Unfortunately, in many, if not in most cases, families have been refused relief wherever wage earning children between them have been earning up to £1 a week, although the family may have been a very large one and although the young people may not have been either able or willing to give up the whole of their earnings for the family use.

Other similar cases were raised and it was finally agreed that the registration office should be kept open three days a week in Poplar, and three days a week in Bow.

The Mayor stated that no reply had been received to the Committee's request to the Government that relief might be allowed to old age pensioners, and other persons not unemployed through the War, but suffering from the increased cost of living.

The Mayor said that no reply had been received to the Committee's inquiries in regard to the offer of cheap coal by Sir Arthur Markham.

SOLDIERS' WIDOWS LEFT PENNILESS.

Mr. Arlidge, Hon. Sec. of the S.S.F.A., at Bilston, writing to the *Daily Chronicle*, points out the grave injustice which is being done to soldiers' widows, whose husbands were killed more than six months ago. He writes:—"Notifications are now being received in cases where death occurred more than 26 weeks ago, and also in 'missing' cases, that separation allowances are suspended. In many of these cases (I have specially before me the case of a widowed mother caring for four children of the soldier who was the mainstay of the home) the workhouse looms ahead, as under existing regulations help from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association ceases with the stoppage of the separation allowance." With 26 weeks to consider the problem, the authorities have no excuse for leaving soldiers widows in the lurch like this. Is this Liberal Government still absolutely impervious to the claims of justice where women are concerned? Are we to wait until this scandal has had a directly injurious effect on recruiting so that, for that reason if for no other, an immediate remedy may be found?

ANOTHER DELAY.

We give the bare facts culled from a letter to the *Times*, concerning the mother of three soldier sons. The sons joined the colours in August last. On February 26th the attention of the writer of the letter was called to the case. No separation allowance had then been received, although, as he ascertained, regular deductions had been made from the pay of the sons. He wrote to the Paymaster of the Regiment on February 26th, March 5th and March 12th. On March 27th he wrote to the Commanding Officer. He has received no reply to his letters, and no separation allowance nor allotment has been paid. It is time that soldier's dependents demanded compound interest on their arrears! Even the Post Office Savings' Bank pays 6d. in the £ per annum!

AMERICAN PROGRESS.

As was expected, Votes for Women has now passed successfully through both Houses of the Pennsylvanian State Legislature, and the question will be submitted to the voters next November. Since January 1st Votes for Women has been passed by sweeping majorities through the Legislatures of New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Iowa and West Virginia. Tennessee, Arkansas, South Dakota and Texas have also passed the question by big majorities, but various technical points may delay its being laid before the voters so promptly as in the first-named States. Congratulations to our American sisters on the wonderful progress our cause is making in U.S.A.!

Between two and three hundred American women, headed by Miss Jane Addams, will attend the Women's International Peace Congress at the Hague, on April 28th. They will sail on a vessel known as the Peace Ship.

ENORMOUS MAJORITIES OF WOMEN WANT THE VOTE.

The *New York World* has taken a poll on the subject of Votes for Women. In seven cities in New York State they took the poll by means of coupons in the paper, which women readers were asked to sign. In this poll *more than seventy per cent. of the women who replied voted.*

For the New York City poll the *New York World* applied to the oldest circularising agency in the City, and instructed the manager to send reply-paid postcards to lists of women, divided into three classes, *i.e.*:—

(1) Wealthy, prosperous, and well-to-do housewives.

(2) Business and professional women, including doctors, lawyers, teachers, secretaries, typists, actresses, artists, milliners, dressmakers, etc.

(3) Boarding house keepers, employment agencies, hairdressers, housekeepers, and domestic servants.

The result of the voting was as follows:—

	Percentage of replies received. For	Against
Wives, Mothers, Home-keepers, Home-makers, etc.	73·61	26·39
No occupation given	61·74	38·26
Teachers, School Officials, Civil Service Examiners, etc. ..	94·09	5·91
Secretaries, Stenographers, Clerks, Bookkeepers, Business Women	84·21	15·79
Nurses, Midwives, Manicurists, Hairdressers, etc.	87·42	12·58
Modistes, Milliners, Shopkeepers, Seamstresses, etc. ..	88·88	11·12
Business Brokers, Buyers, Employment Agents, Hotel and Room'g-house Proprietresses.	83·33	16·67
Professional: Doctors, Lawyers, Editors, Writers, Actresses, Singers, Artists, Designers, etc.	87·27	12·73
Capitalists, Taxpayers, Philanthropists, etc.	62·50	37·50
City Employees	45·45	54·45
Domestics, Scrub Women, Attendants, etc.	90·47	9·53
Average.. ..	77·04	22·96

Miss Muriel Thompson, Militant Suffragette, and member of the W.S.P.U., is now in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Corps. She has been decorated by King Albert for rescuing wounded under heavy shell fire.

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